

The Congress is not merely for the States of the Commonwealth. It is for New Zealand as well, and for Australasia, and will deal with subjects of varied and practical interest to Catholics under the Southern Cross. But its interests range more widely still. It is a Catholic as well as an Australasian Congress, and the great volume of its published papers and transactions will represent the best thought of foremost Catholic minds on subjects of present Catholic interest in every part of the Catholic world. Bishop Gallagher, speaking recently in Sydney, said of the First Congress volume: 'I have heard priests and people in the United States say that even they, in the most progressive portion of the Universal Church on the globe, had hardly any one volume of proceedings connected with the Church of America that contained so many instructing and interesting papers on everything in regard to the Church and its advancement as that which had the papers of their Australasian Congress held four years ago.' 'I know,' said the Archbishop of Melbourne on the same occasion, 'that the volume containing the transactions of the last Congress was read in America, Ireland, England, and in all the English-speaking countries with the greatest interest; and the surprise of the readers was that here in these new countries, and amongst the faithful of a new Church, so much progress had been made, and that we have accomplished after a century of our history what had not yet been accomplished in some of the oldest Catholic countries of the world. It was this that filled the reader with wonder, that raised Australasian Catholics in the estimation of those who, through that volume, became acquainted with the present condition of the Church in these countries. Now, when it is found that our efforts are not confined to one Congress, but are extending to the second—as, with the help of God, they would extend hereafter to the third, fourth, and fifth Congress—the impression made on the minds of those who would read the Acta of the forthcoming Congress, would be an impression that the Catholics of these new countries have begun where the inhabitants of other countries had left off. No wonder, then, that we have more advanced in a short time, in certain directions, than those who certainly had a longer existence, and who seem also to have larger opportunities than we have had. I know I have said enough to make you take an interest in the forthcoming Congress, and I will, in conclusion, merely express a hope that everyone who can will come, and that those who cannot, will make themselves owners—by paying the comparatively small fee required—of the volume which will contain the proceedings of the Congress. I may say it is only with the utmost care that we can turn out that volume, so that the cost shall not exceed the fee (10s 6d) expected from the members of the Congress. In other words, if the members derive no other benefit from the Congress than the possession of that volume, they will have ample remuneration for the amount expended in becoming members of the Congress. Those who become members will also have all the other advantages, whether literary, or scientific, or social, which will be afforded.'

It only remains for us to express the earnest hope that New Zealand will have a strong lay and clerical representation at the coming Congress. We trust that hundreds of those who cannot attend its meetings will, by becoming members, secure, at cost price or less, the great volume containing the papers and proceedings—a volume which will be, in effect, an up-to-date cyclopaedia of expert information covering a wide range of the live and practical Catholic subjects of our time. The Congress volume is already partly in type and the work of its publication is being pushed on apace. It can be obtained only by a card of membership procurable from the various Diocesan Secretaries, whose names appear hereunder, and it should find a place in every convent, school, parochial library, priest's book-case, and in every Catholic home.

Notes

The Congress: Important Notice

The Union Steam Ship Company and the Huddart Parker Company have kindly consented to make the following arrangements in connection with the Second Australasian Catholic Congress:—

They will grant the special concession of ten per cent on fares to Melbourne ON SIGHT OF MEMBERSHIP VOUCHERS signed by one or other of the Diocesan Secretaries—namely, the Very Rev. P. Power (Hawera), for the Archdiocese of Wellington; the Right Rev. Monsignor P. O'Reilly (Thames), for the Diocese of Auckland; the Very Rev. Dean Foley (Temuka), for the Diocese of Christchurch; and the Rev. H. W. Cleary (Box 98, Dunedin), for the Diocese of Dunedin.

NOTE WELL: The Membership vouchers will NOT BE RETAINED by the Shipping Companies named. They will be returned to Members and MUST BE PRESENTED at the Congress Offices, Cathedral Hall, Melbourne, when a Badge of Membership will be issued. The arrangements in connection with vouchers for the reduced rates on the New Zealand Government Railways are not yet to hand, but will be published by us at the earliest possible date.

Time is passing, and we strongly urge all those who intend to take part in this historic Congress to forward immediately an application for Membership, with fee (10s 6d), to the Secretaries of their respective Dioceses. Those who cannot avail themselves of this great treat should at least secure Membership cards in order to procure the splendid Congress Memorial Volume, which will, in itself alone, be worth much more than the modest sum expended upon it. We shall be glad to transact any business in connection with travel-tickets, etc., that may be entrusted to us from the Diocese of Dunedin.

Compensation for Accidents

There is often more in an Act of Parliament than meets the eye—more even than met the eye of the men who licked it into shape with their jaw-bones. Few of our legislators, we ween, realised what a long-range weapon they forged when they passed certain clauses of the Workers' Compensation for Accidents Act. A case was decided by the Court of Arbitration at Milton last week which brings into unexpected light the responsibilities and the rights which exist under this Act. Full details of the case appeared in the 'Otago Daily Times.' Briefly and summarily stated, the case was as follows: A widow sought compensation for the death of her husband, William Seed, who had been employed as ploughman by the respondent, John Somerville. In July of last year the deceased, during the course of his employment, banged his fingers with a hammer. The injury seemed of no particular account and caused no inconvenience. A medical practitioner (who was in attendance upon the man's wife) saw the abraded finger five days after 'the fall of the hammer' (so to speak), and thought the wound of no particular consequence—just one of the passing little pin-pricks of life. But in five days more the man was dead—carried off by erysipelas.

It happened in this way. The deceased man's wife had been suffering from puerperal fever. The nurse in attendance upon her was attacked with erysipelas; the husband helped to remove her from the house; and in doing so it is presumed that he caught the contagion which carried him off to another and, we hope, a better world. A claim was laid by the widow under the Workers' Compensation for Accidents Act, and the case presented a fine complication for the law to disentangle. The respondent stoutly argued that the erysipelas, even